March Comes in Like a Lion

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Chapter. 61

Adventures

Looking at both adults' faces, which seemed to say, "Darn it",
将棋会館
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I understood.
NIKAIDOU... IN THE HOSPITAL...?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I was the only one who didn't know...
将棋会館

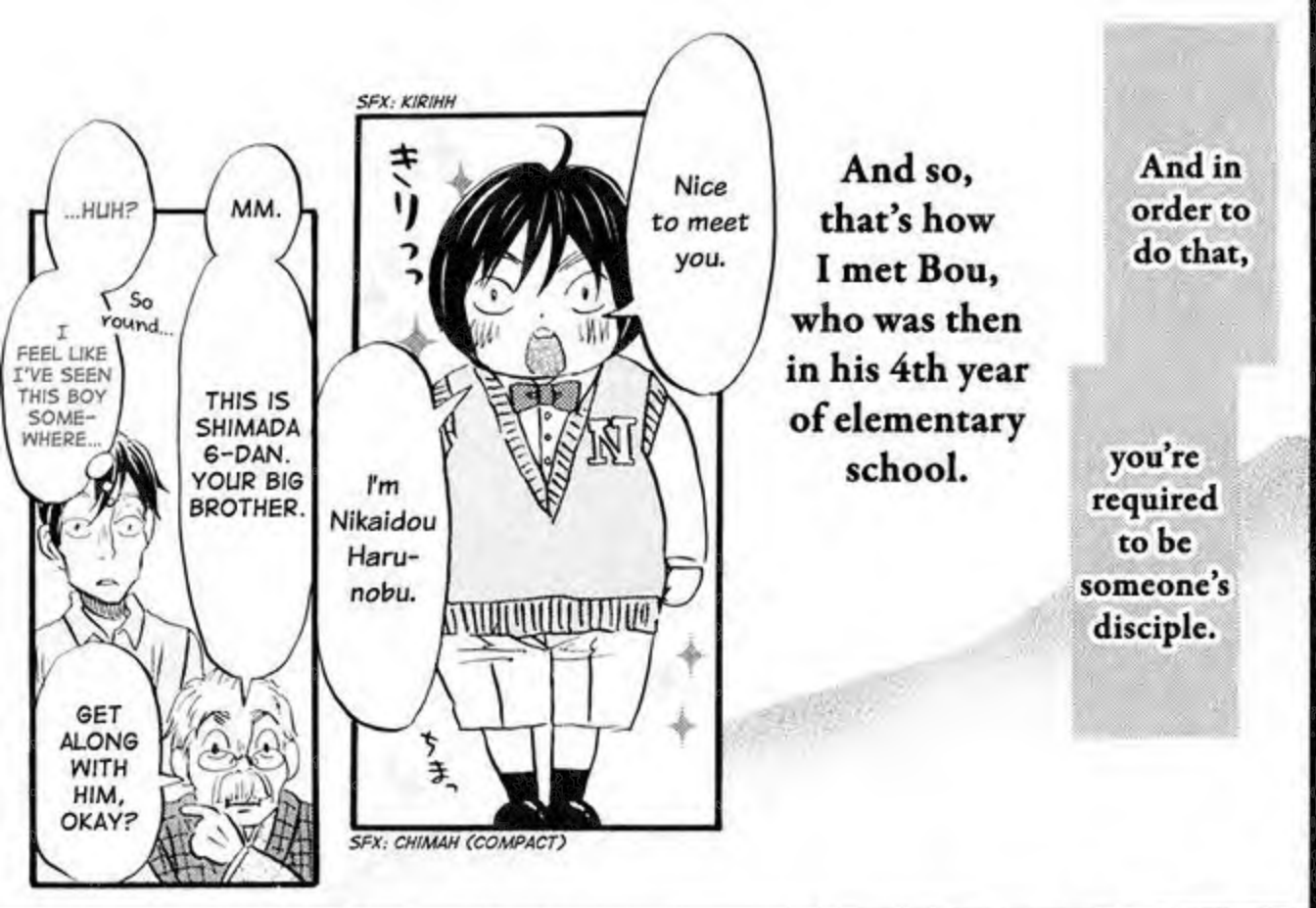
PLEASE WAIT!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
COME ON, SHIMADA, LET'S GO GET A DRINK.
IT'S NOTHING MAJOR.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SICKLY.
AND THE STRAIN FROM THE NEWCOMER CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALS SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED A BAD EPISODE...
KIRIYAMA.
.....
HE CAN'T AFFORD TO STAY LONG AT THE HOSPITAL....
HE HAS TO COME BACK, RIGHT? HE'S GOT THE RANK-DECIDING-MATCHES!
THEN HE COULD JUST GET IN HIS LIMOUSINE WITH THE BED IN IT OR SOME-THING.
IF THIS IS JUST ONE OF HIS USUAL HEALTH PROBLEMS,
IS IT THAT BAD?

IF YOU ASK AND I DON'T ANSWER,
THEN THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME REASON FOR THAT, RIGHT?
I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH.
To be honest, I'd been vaguely aware of it.
Hanaoka-san, who would never leave his side.
The lightly coloured, beautifully dyed bento boxes.
I would always see lots of medicine in his bag.
To be honest, I never could...
bring myself to ask...

IN THAT CASE...
that Nikaidou didn't want me to ask.
It was bad enough
I SEE.
.....
I knew that ever since we were kids...
COULD I ASK YOU
WHAT THE ENTIRETY OF THAT REASON IS?
将棋会
GOOD LUCK WITH THE REST.
SHIMADA, I'M HEADING HOME.

KIRIYAMA.
HOW ABOUT WE GO GET SOME FOOD?
After that,
Shimada-san told me all about Nikaidou.
About his little brother disciple.

HUH?
YOU'RE TAKING ON ANOTHER DISCIPLE?
MM.
BUT SENSEI, YOU ALWAYS SAID THAT
YOU WERE DONE WITH DISCIPLES AFTER ME, DIDN'T YOU?
AND YOU HAD THAT HEALTH SCARE LAST YEAR.
SO WHY NOW...?
WELL, YA SEEEE,
I JUST FOUND A KID WHO WAS SO DARN INTERESTING.
HM...
In order to become a shogi pro, you must first enter the Shoureikai.



And so, that's how I met Bou, who was then in his 4th year of elementary school.

And in order to do that,

you're required to be someone's disciple.

WHAT'S WITH THAT PERFECTLY ROUND KID?
MAKING HIS GRANDPA CARRY A BENTO.
I HEARD HE DROVE UP IN AN AMAZING CAR.
GROSSSS.
NIKA
I'd seen him when I was working as a guest lecturer at a children's tournament.
.....
HE WON'T BE AROUND FOR LONG.
HE'S JUST A RICH KID LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO.

I had a recollection of that boy.

SFX: MOGGU MOGGU (CHEW CHEW)
SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEW CHEW)
HE COULD BUY ALL THE MANGA OR VIDEO GAMES HE WANTED.
...WHY WOULD HE GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO ENTER THIS WORLD?
As someone who grew up poor, I was jealous of him immediately.
RICH KIDS.
A DELUXE BENTO, HUH...?
SIGH...
もぐ もぐ
Be sure to chew each bite 30 times, all right?
Mm.
もぐ もぐ
SFX: POM
SFX: PACHI PACHI PACHI PACHI (APPLAUSE)
3'
The finals will now begin.
Thank you all for waiting.
From Suginami Ward, Tokyo, we have Kiriyama Rei-kun.
SO THAT RICH KID LOST IN THE SEMIS?
HMM...
HE FOUGHT A LOT HARDER THAN I EXPECTED.
HMMM
SFX: KASA... HYOI...
GAMES AND COMPUTERS WOULD BE MORE FUN FOR HIM.
WELL, I DOUBT HE'LL LAST LONG ANYHOW.
...WHAT IS THIS?
A POWER BATTLE WITH BOTH HAVING STATIC GYOKUS...
AND 185 MOVES...
WAS THIS GAME REALLY PLAYED BY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS?
I was surprised when I saw the kifu.

From the calm way that old man dealt with the situation,

I caught a glimpse of the boy's long battle with illness.

Shogi is an honest path. You won't get better unless you study hard.

Yes, what we have here

is the kifu of an individual

who had easily thrown away the idea of a fun childhood.

CAN WE?!
PLEASE DON'T GO EASY ON ME LIKE THAT!
IF I GET
THE "WEIRD PERSON" TREATMENT IN BACK, TOO.
THEN WHERE ELSE CAN I GO?!

AW, DARN.
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
The Newcomer Championship Finals were
in one week,
at the Kansai Shogi Association...
OKAY.
AH WELL. THE STATION IS CLOSE BY...
HOW 'BOUT WE RUN?
As we ran through the rain
which resembled thin silver threads...

Heading towards the *aspiration point*,
he pushes forward like a fireball...
While there was *doubt*, *hesitation*, *faltering*...
Still, he believed in "what he'd done thus far".
—I thought back on Nikaidou's kifu.
It was just like an adventure novel.
Chapter 61 END
BLACK: YAMAZAKI JUNKEI
WHITE: NIKAIDOU HARUNOBU

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 5

WHAT KIND OF RULE IS DRAW BY REPETITION...?!

Shogi is a game in which the goal is to make each move in a progression towards checkmating the opponent's gyoku. But occasionally the same sequence of turns can repeat over and over, resulting in no progress being made for either side. No matter how much the two play, they just keep going in circles and can't come to a conclusion. So in this case the game is re-played due to "draw by repetition". In the official rules, the same four moves repeating in one game is considered a draw by repetition.

When a draw by repetition occurs, the game is replayed after a 30 minute break with the sente and gote switched. The feeling of fatigue you get from something you've been working on since 10 AM to suddenly be thrown out is considerable.

This also frequently occurs in the endgame when a considerable amount of play has taken place. This is to avoid a draw by repetition in the opening in so the sente, which has a slight advantage, does not get switched to being the gote.

On the other hand, players just starting out as gote may attempt to force a draw by repetition to gain that advantage. This is a tactic commonly used on the pro level.

It frequently happens in the end game, often late at night, and re-playing a game in the middle of the night requires an enormous amount of emotional stamina. Also, the available time given to each player decreases so the moves come quite rapidly. Perhaps because of the fatigue they cause, there is an aphorism in the shogi world that states "There are no famous games that occurred as redos due to draws by repetition".

Draws by repetition occur a fair amount; they're not all that rare. Though how frequently they occur depends on the style of play, they happen for most pro players once or twice a year. For some players it's less: only once every few years or so.
By the way, I'm the type it happens frequently to. In the last six months I've played three such games and I came home after midnight all three times. Now that I think about it, a long time ago I played a game where I ended up coming home at 6 AM. The match had lasted a full 20 hours and I remember the sky being light out when it ended.

6 AM was the latest a match ever ran, but in rank-deciding matches, it is common to have draws by repetition that end matches at 2 AM or 3 AM. For night owl players, this could be seen as advantageous. And as one might expect, younger players with more stamina have a larger tendency to win these games. There's an aphorism in the shogi world that "Draw by repetition gives the advantage to the youth".

This is a bit of a digression, but in the world of Go, a world very similar to the world of shogi, there is no draw by repetition. Based on the rules of the game, they cannot occur. There is a rule called "triple ko" which can cause a draw, but these are rare. In some years, it does not occur in a single pro game, so Go players can live without having to endure the hell that is replaying games due to draws by repetition, which I could not be more jealous of. My wife is a pro go player, so I'm always boasting "how great draws by repetition are" to her.

BE WITH YOU SCANS NOTES

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OSHI-E ("pressed pictures") is a traditional Japanese craft that involves placing a piece of cloth over cotton padding, and then stitching it to add detail and dimension. Mass-produced items like books are most likely to use pre-printed fabric, but high-end art pieces are assembled using carefully chosen scraps of silk brocade.